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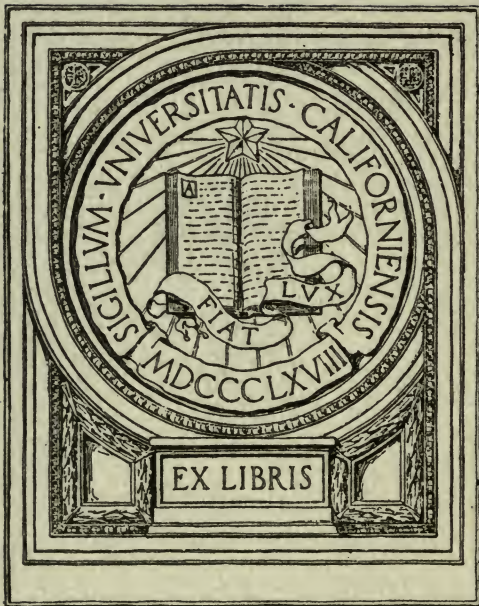
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GRENADÉ WARFARE

Notes on the Training & Organization

OF

GRENADIERS.

BY

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Lieut. G. DYSON,

Microsoft Corporation
(Brigade Grenadier Officer, 99th Infantry Brigade).

LONDON : SIFTON, PRAED & CO., LTD.,
The Map House, 67, St. James's Street, S.W.

1915.

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Lieut. G. DYSON,

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PRELIMINARY NOTES.

I. Subjects of Instruction.

Grenadier Instructors must be thoroughly conversant with the following Official Publications :—

1. Manual of Field Engineering, Chap. XIV, Secs. 98-107.
2. Infantry Training. Appendix 1.
3. Musketry Regulations. Part 1, Appendix VII.
4. Instruction Guide to Grenades. 1915.

There is as yet, however, no official publication dealing with the practical training of grenadiers. It is the purpose of the following notes to suggest a simple scheme of training, avoiding the more intricate technical detail, and concentrating mainly on the practical qualifications which an efficient grenadier must possess.

There are seven main subjects of training :

1. Explosives, Detonators, Fuzes, etc.
2. Improvised Bombs.
3. Service Grenades.
4. Grenade Throwing.
5. Bayonet Fighting.
6. Barricading.
7. Organisation and Tactics.

The first three are partly theoretical, and there is no need to teach more than a simple working knowledge of the subjects. Nos. 4, 5, 6, call for long and careful practice, and a high degree of skill. No. 7 should be made the final stage of training, and must not be attempted until an adequate standard in every other subject been reached.

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II. Materials and Equipment.

An adequate supply of Service Explosives and Grenades is rarely available, but this is not an insuperable barrier to proper training. The following materials can be procured without much difficulty or expense, and with them all the principal subjects of instruction can be effectively taught.

1. Dummy Service Grenades with the mechanism complete, but unloaded.
2. A reasonable quantity of gun powder and safety fuze. (Commercial Safety Fuze will do)
3. Small quantities of Service Explosives, Detonators, and Fuzes can be obtained, or imitations made, sufficient to demonstrate the appearance of those most likely to be met with on Service.
4. Spring Bayonet Equipment.
5. A number of cast iron shells similar in weight and size to Hand Grenade No. 5 (egg shape) throwing practice (see below).
6. A number of wooden dummies similar to Hand Grenades Nos. 1 or 2. (See below)
7. Periscopes of any pattern.
8. Sandbags and digging tools.

The provision of a suitable training ground is most important. Throwing pitches with distances accurately and plainly marked must be provided, and a scheme of trenches must be designed and made giving opportunities for throwing practices at varying distances, and containing traverses and communication trenches such as can be used in the various stages of training.

Clear indications of distance are essential. Only by this means can men be taught to judge distances accurately when observing or throwing.

DUMMY GRENADES RECOMMENDED FOR THROWING PRACTICE.

1. Dummy "No. 1." (Wood).

Weight: about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Length: 1 foot.

Head: Cylindrical. Length: 4in. Diameter: 2in.

Lead filling in centre to give required weight.

Handle: 8in. x $\frac{3}{4}$ in, with three canvas streamers attached to the base. Streamers 2ft. x 2in.

2. Dummy "No. 5." (Iron).

Hollow cast-iron shell $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick. Length 3 in.; diameter 2 in.; weight, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Open at one end.

This Dummy can be used as a "live" bomb by inserting small charge of gunpowder, properly enclosed and tamped with earth, with safety fuse attached. The charge should be so small as merely to drive the contents of the shell out of the open end. The shell suffers no damage and can be used repeatedly.

III. General Recommendations.

1. Practice in the manufacture and use of simple live bombs essential, but instructors must take the greatest care to ensure that familiarity with explosives does not lead to carelessness in handling them. Adequate supervision must be insisted on at all times.

2. All field work must be practised under service conditions, namely: fully armed and equipped. Packs may be discarded, but in other respects men must wear full equipment.

In the case of throwers, carriers, or other men who carry special apparatus, rifles must be slung. A suitable method is to sling the rifle, not across the back, but vertically from and behind the left shoulder. Hold the sling strap with the left hand and grip the rifle with the left elbow to prevent it from swinging. In this position the rifle will not appreciably hamper the thrower, and it can be slipped off for use at a moment's notice.

3. Squads under instruction must not be larger than the normal size of a Grenadier party; 6 to 12 men. Each man requires individual attention, and large parties make proper supervision impossible.
4. In all exercises instructors must introduce elements of competition into the training. Scores must be kept of all Throwing Practices, and a rigid system of marks and disqualifications in Bayonet Work.
5. Grenadiers must be skilled in all branches of their work and ready to take any place in the party. Instructors should, however, note and encourage special aptitude on the part of any particular man and develop it to the full.

6. Instructors will further bear in mind that Grenadier Training for modern warfare must not be done on hard and fast lines. Experience is constantly modifying and adding to the means and objects of instruction. With regard to storming parties in particular, experience has proved the value of many forms of organisation and tactics. Instructors will therefore amplify the various branches of training at their discretion, taking note of any developments of obvious value, and encouraging well-conceived initiative in their men.
7. Trench Mortars and other mechanical bomb throwers can be described and demonstrated if they are available, but too much time must not be devoted to them, to the detriment of the more important subjects of training for hand grenadiers.
8. The time available for training should be divided approximately as follows :—

LECTURES AND BOMB MAKING.....	15	per cent.
THROWING AND OBSERVING.....	30	„ „
BAYONET FIGHTING	20	„ „
BARRICADING	10	„ „
STORMING PARTIES.....	25	„ „

Such a time-table lays proper stress on the importance of developing a high degree of skill in the more essential practical exercises.

NOTES on TRAINING and ORGANISATION.

I. Service Explosives, Detonators, and Fuzes.

Short, simple, lectures should be given, with demonstration, on the appearance, chief properties, and uses of the following :

Gunpowder.

Guncotton.

Detonators.

Safety and Instantaneous Fuzes.

Special emphasis should be laid on the following points :

- GUNPOWDER.** The necessity for the proper enclosing and tamping of low explosives.
- GUNCOTTON.** The use of detonation with high explosives. All charges to be in close contact with each other and with the objectives.
- DETONATORS.** The need for extreme care in handling and manipulating. Avoid friction, heat, and shock.
- FUZES.** Test the burning rate of safety fuze before use. Joints to be carefully made and secured with the cores in contact.
The nick joint to be used in preference to the scarf joint.
Fuzes and other special igniters not being always available, learn to light fuzes by placing a match head on the core of the fuze and striking the box on the match.

II. Improvised Bombs.

“Jam tin” bombs should be made and explained, using various charges according to the materials available.

“Hair Brush” bombs can be similarly demonstrated.

When instructors are satisfied that the men thoroughly understand the use of simple materials, they may allow the class to make simple low-power time-fuze bombs individually.

The best introduction to this work is the use of small charges of Gunpowder properly tamped. The powder must be enclosed in a bag, the safety fuze (Service or commercial) tested before use, and cut to give the desired interval before explosion. As the fuze has to be inserted in the charge its length must be measured *outside* the bag *after* insertion.

A standard time of about four seconds should be adopted. This is the approximate standard used in the service time-fuze bombs, and men must become accustomed to it as soon as possible.

III. Service Grenades.

Service Grenades, empty, for Instructional purposes, must be

obtained, and short lectures given on the main features of the mechanism. There is no need to insist on a knowledge of every interior detail. So long as the men know how to prepare the grenades for throwing, and, in case they are not thrown, to return the various safety devices to the safety position, that is all that is necessary. Men only require such familiarity with them as will ensure safe handling.

Remind the class constantly that the detonators are usually packed separately, either in another box, or in a special compartment of the grenade box. The grenadier must therefore cultivate a habit of looking for the detonator in any bomb that may arrive new, and, if it is not in the bomb, he must find and insert it before the bomb can be used.

Men should be examined individually in the preparation for throwing of various types of grenades.

IV. Grenade Throwing.

This is a most important branch of Grenadier Training, and a very high standard of accuracy is required. Careful practice on sound lines is essential, and a considerable portion of the time available for training must be devoted to it. The difficulties are greatly augmented when, as is usually the case, throwing has to be done under complete cover, and according to directions given verbally by an observer. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of throwing practice of every kind. There can be no hope of success without it. Bad throwing not only means certain failure both in attack or defence, but it also subjects the grenadier party to the risk of heavy casualties through the clumsiness of its own throwers. Grenadiers must therefore be made to understand clearly at the beginning of their training, that nothing can excuse inaccurate throwing, and instructors must not be satisfied until the thrower can, from behind cover, and in obedience to the command of an observer, throw missiles of varying weight and size into a specified trench at any reasonable distance or in any direction. Training must be graduated to attain this end.

In all practices involving the use of cover, men must work in pairs, one directing and observing, the other throwing.

The training of the observer is of equal importance, and efficiency only comes after much practice. The observer must be

able to give distance and direction quickly and accurately. He must not be allowed to be vague. Terms like "about" or "nearly" must be repressed. Moreover, he must not give negative information. If the thrower has missed the objective, the observer must not be allowed to describe what happened to the bad shot, he must give positive directions for the next.

For instance, if the shot has fallen a yard to the left of the objective, the observer must not say "A yard too much to the left." He must direct the next shot and say "Throw a yard to the right." The reason is obvious. Positive directions, even if only half heard, are of some use; negative directions are certain to be both confused and confusing.

Moreover, the observer must give his directions in the form of short, sharp, clear words of command. He must learn to *command* quickly and accurately, and the thrower must be instantly ready and able to *obey*.

The observer will also learn to use a periscope, and go through all the later practices by means of it.

With regard to methods of throwing, no hard and fast rules can be laid down. Grenadiers have to throw from all kinds of positions over every kind of obstacle, and the method of throwing must therefore be constantly modified. One point should be insisted upon, viz.: a *high angle* of fire. The following method of throwing will encourage this, and all practices in the open should be done in this way.

(For a right-handed thrower)

Turn to the right with the left shoulder pointing towards the objective. Extend the right arm away from the objective and throw by swinging the right arm upwards over the head. (Overarm)

When throwing in trenches, Grenadiers must be constantly reminded of the great danger in swinging percussion grenades. A hit or graze on some part of the trench may easily be fatal to the thrower. No preliminary swinging will be allowed.

Instructors will keep written scores, and encourage competition. Only those bombs which fall clean into the objective will be allowed to score.

When a sufficiently high standard of accuracy has been reached, low-power time-fuze bombs can be used. Practice with live bombs is essential to accustom men to throwing them with the same cool-

ness and accuracy as dummies. When using live bombs the thrower will hold the bomb in his hand with the arm extended. The carrier who will always be with him, will light the fuze and as soon as it is lit will tap the thrower's arm as a signal that the bomb is ready to throw, and the thrower will time his throw so that the bomb falls into the objective just before it explodes.

TABLE OF THROWING PRACTICES.

- | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|
| Practice 1. | Throwing in the open. | (a) Standing
(b) Lying |
| 2. | Throwing from trench to trench at marked distances up to 25 yards. | |
| 3. | Throwing from bay to bay over one or two traverses. | |
| 4. | Throwing from or to awkward or diagonal points. | |

The above to be practised with dummy "No. 1." and dummy "No. 5."

Practices 3 and 4 must be done with an observer who will give distance and direction.

Practice 4 to be repeated with live bombs.

V, Bayonet Fighting.

Bayonet fighting as taught in the Service Manuals requires some modification when applied to Grenadier practice. Grenadiers will fight in enclosed and narrow spaces where shock tactics are rarely possible. Methods similar to those of a swordsman are required, with a perfect combination of eyes, hands, and feet. Practice must be chiefly designed to develop agility and speed at close quarters. Service Bayonet Instruction will accustom the men to the weight and balance of the weapon, and will teach the points and parries. This must be supplemented by practice against a living opponent, and for this purpose spring bayonet equipment must be used, and a series of individual contests at close quarters arranged.

Pay particular attention to the following points:—

- (a) Eye on the opponent's point.
- (b) Body well balanced.
- (c) Point at the opponent's throat.
- (d) Parry quickly but not too wide.

(e) Shorten arms at close quarters, and use the jab.

(f) Use the butt, trip, etc., etc.

Men must be frequently reminded to have their rifles loaded. Shooting is often possible and may be the best means of acting effectively in certain circumstances.

Instructors will adjudicate in all contests and preserve a rigid standard of scores and disqualifications. The most satisfactory system is to have two markers, one to each man. Each marker will note the number of touches his man receives, and score them to his opponent.

TABLE OF BAYONET PRACTICES WITH SPRING BAYONET EQUIPMENT.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Practice 1. | Contests in the open. |
| 2. | Contests in a straight trench. |
| 3. | Contests around corners or traverses involving the use of cover or surprise. |

VI. Barrier and Barricade Making.

Grenadiers must be skilled in the rapid filling and handling of sandbags, and must be able to construct quickly, with any available material, bullet proof barriers. Instructors will indicate suitable positions, and train their men to block up a trench, using available cover, and working against time. All practices will be arranged in competitive form.

Each man will be given the same number of empty bags. Men will work in pairs, and each pair will have the same number of tools. Instructors will see that the bags are properly tied up. In building with sandbags the bags will be laid in alternate layers of "Headers" and "Stretchers" and the structure will be made as solid as possible by careful fitting and packing. Solidity of structure should always be tested.

TABLE OF BARRICADE PRACTICES.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Practice 1. | Filling sandbags against time. |
| | (a) With the entrenching implement. |
| | (b) With pick and shovel. |
| 2. | Blocking a trench with sandbags. |

3. Building a partial barrier, leaving a narrow open space sufficient for one man to squeeze through. This space must be on the right hand side facing the line of advance.

VII. Organisation and Tactics.

Grenadiers have special duties to perform, both in defence and attack, and their tactics and organisation must be studied and practised with a definite objective in view. Instructors must introduce into this part of the training every possible element of reality, and must foster to the fullest extent individual initiative and skill.

THE DEFENCE.

Grenadiers are used defensively to prevent the approach of enemy saps and mines or enemy storming parties. Enemy counter attacks are usually best met by rifle fire, but grenadiers can often give valuable assistance at close quarters. Machine gun emplacements within throwing distance should be made untenable, and a constant effort should be encouraged to develop and retain a clear superiority over the enemy in grenade throwing.

Accurate throwing and observing and arrangements for adequate supplies claim chief attention for these purposes. Success depends on the thoroughness of the preliminary training.

THE ATTACK.

There are three phases of attack that grenadiers may have to carry out.

1. *Preparing for an assault on enemy trenches within throwing distance.*

Throwers must be suitably distributed in the line of trenches from which the assault is launched. Accurate throwing, properly observed, and distributed, will greatly assist in preparing for a successful assault.

2. *Assisting and supporting the assault.* Grenadiers will usually advance with the Infantry Supports, and will assist in destroying the enemy and securing the front and flanks of the attack when the enemy trenches are taken. This will usually lead to a further stage :—

3. *The assault and capture of trenches on the flanks, or communicating trenches in front, by means of Grenadier Storming Parties.*

An Infantry Assault, however well conducted, rarely succeeds in occupying immediately the whole of the enemy line of trenches. Casualties, loss of direction, or unexpected obstacles, frequently result in leaving "gaps" in the captured position. It is the particular duty of Grenadiers to deal with these "gaps" as soon as possible, and for this purpose an efficient and properly organised storming party must be instantly available. Grenadiers for this duty must be placed on the flanks of the attacking force.

The work and arrangement of a grenadier storming party requires very careful consideration and practice. Parties must necessarily vary in size and constitution, but practice is essential in some form that will enable men to understand their particular duties, and at the same time accustom them to act for the advantage and cohesion of the whole.

The following notes describe an arrangement that has been used with success :—

GRENADIER STORMING PARTY.

A Party consists of 8 men as follows :

1. Bayonet Man
2. do.
3. Thrower
4. Carrier
5. Spare Bayonet Man
6. Spare Carrier
7. Barricader
8. do.

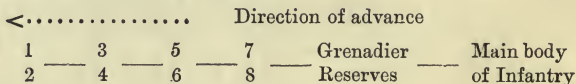
BAYONET MEN move in advance of the thrower. Their duty is to clear each section of trench as it is reached. When the thrower has thrown his bomb into the objective trench, the bayonet men must be ready to take instant advantage of the temporary demoralization of the enemy caused by the explosion and clear the way for a similar attack on the next section of trench.

THE THROWER must be ready and able to throw a bomb at once wherever the bayonet man or other observer may direct. Accuracy is essential, and immediate readiness to obey.

CARRIERS are responsible for the supply of bombs and grenades. They must prepare them for throwing, and hand them to the thrower ready for throwing.

BARRICADERS must be furnished with sandbags and tools and be ready to go forward and block a trench at once.

DISPOSITION OF PARTY :



The Officer or N.C.O. in charge must place himself where he can best observe, replace casualties, and forward supplies. All men must be ready to exchange tasks at once in emergency.

It will be noticed that in the Storming Party itself not more than two men are actually together. Instructors must see that these intervals are preserved. The distance should be such as to place one solid corner of earth between each two. In this way casualties from enemy bombs are reduced to a minimum, while at the same time the men are taught to work in pairs, and act with initiative. When the front pair moves forward the rest follow, preserving their intervals. Men must be taught to maintain constant communication with the members of the party behind or before them. Practice is essential in sending clear messages down the line, so as to secure prompt reserves or supplies when necessary.

Arrangements to assist the progress of a storming party by covering or Machine Gun Fire by the main body are of the utmost value. Care must be taken, however, to have some simple form of signalling which will mark the progress of the party and give the main body an exact indication of the party's position. A cap raised on the bayonet at frequent intervals is a simple and successful method of doing this. Covering fire will greatly assist the storming party by preventing the enemy from observing, but there are obvious dangers if the position of the party is doubtful. Practice in this as in all other departments of the organisation must be systematically enforced.

Storming parties must also learn to carry out their operations with as little noise as possible, even by day. Communication must be chiefly maintained by word of mouth, and consequently messages must be passed down the line in clear and unmistakeable form, but unnecessary noise or shouting must be constantly repressed.

Parties will be organized similar in constitution to the above. Numbers may vary, but the general principles of disposition and attack will be preserved. The following practices will be carried out, at first with dummy bombs, and later with live bombs.

On service, every grenadier will carry as many bombs or grenades as is possible or convenient, and will be ready to become "thrower" or "carrier" as required. The supply of grenades is a constant difficulty in attack, and must be carefully rehearsed.

Practice 1. *Storming a line of fire trenches from the flank.* In this practice communication or other branch trenches will be ignored. When more bombs are required No. 6 will replace No. 4. No. 4 will go back to reserves and bring bombs or send a carrier to replace No. 6. No passing or exchanging bombs by hand will be allowed. The men must change places and thus save time. When the party has reached its furthest point of advance the barricaders will come forward and make a barrier in such a position that it is well in view from a corner some yards behind. The party will then retire, leaving 1 bayonet man as sentry at this corner. The barricaders will then make a partial barricade in a similar position still further back. The interval between the two barriers should be such that enemy bombs thrown by hand will fall within it. The sentry can protect himself by using his corner and can give timely warning if the first barricade is stormed. His position will enable him to shoot with effect, and, if he is rushed, the second barrier will afford similar protection until a counter offensive is organised. The reserves and main body will meanwhile occupy and consolidate the ground gained.

Practice 2. *As in practice 1, but including communication trenches.* When a communicating or other branch trench is encountered, the thrower will place a bomb in the first

section of it. No. 1 will assault this section and the thrower will throw into the second section, No. 1 assaulting it similarly and posting himself at the second corner. The rest of the Storming party will remain in their former positions in the fire trench. No. 5 will take the place of No. 1 at the head of the party. Nos. 7 and 8 will be sent to block the communication trench at the end of the 2nd section. This done, 7 and 8 will return to the party, and the original No. 1 will act as sentry at the corner between the two sections of communicating trench. The storming party will in the meantime proceed along the fire trench as before.

This method of dealing with a communication trench is only a temporary measure to allow the storming party to proceed along the main objective. A party from the reserve can then be organised to assault the communicating trench as far as may be necessary. This branch party will destroy the barricade, and proceed as in Practice 1. All Communication trenches as they occur will be dealt with in this way.

In the case of Island Traverses, the thrower will throw on both sides of the traverse, Nos. 1 and 2 each assaulting one side and meeting when the thrower has cleared the far side with a third bomb.

Practice 3. *The whole Grenadier Company will charge a line of trenches in extended order, organise themselves, and advance on one or both flanks as in practice 2.*

Throughout these practices instructors will impress on their men the extreme usefulness of throwing frequently into the next section of trench but one. This will render effective reply by the enemy very difficult.

Finally, Instructors will remember that the chief requisites for success are dash and initiative in the Bayonet-men, and skill and coolness in the thrower. Anything which conduces to the attainment of a high standard in these respects should be encouraged to the utmost.

Night Operations.

Grenadiers may be required to perform at night any of the duties that are theirs by day. They should, in addition, be able to

undertake a night Reconnaissance. Instructors will appreciate, however, that no useful purpose is served by night operations, unless the men have already reached such a high standard in their work by day that the risk of confusion or accident is reduced to a minimum. Men must be able to organise themselves quickly and silently. Throwers must be particularly efficient.

Training will be arranged in two forms:—

1. GRENADIER PATROLS.

A detachment will occupy a line of trenches. They will be disposed as the Officer or N.C.O. commanding them may direct. Listening posts or other advantageous points of observation which the ground may afford will be used, and it will be the duty of the detachment to report to its commander any movement or incident that may occur on its front.

The remainder of the party will be marched to a point some 200 to 300 yards in front of the above trenches. From this point Grenadier Patrols will be sent out to reconnoitre the line.

Patrols will be given a fixed period of time in which to accomplish their task and bring a report. Their duty will be to approach, noiselessly and unseen, as close as possible, and bring back information as to the length of line occupied, the numbers and disposition of the occupying troops, together with a description of the ground and of any listening or other advanced posts they may encounter. The following points are important:—

- (a) Patrols will be from two to four men.
- (b) Patrols may remove their entire equipment, carrying only a haversack with a few bombs (dummy).
- (c) These bombs are only to be used in extreme emergency. Patrols are sent out for information and observation, not for fighting.
- (d) Patrols will move or crawl noiselessly, and pay particular attention to background and all the other details of cover.
- (e) If Patrols suspect that they are observed they must learn to "freeze" to the ground, lying absolutely motionless.
- (f) In complete darkness it is fatally easy for Patrols to lose direction and for men to lose one another. Every device that will lessen these risks must be employed.
- (g) Men may tie themselves lightly together, so that they need

not proceed in a bunch. They will thus decrease the risk of discovery, and at the same time retain connection with one another.

At the conclusion of this exercise the commanders of the two parties will make separate reports and the Officer directing the whole operation will compare them and comment on them to the men concerned.

2. NIGHT STORMING PARTIES.

The practices detailed above for Grenadier Storming Parties will be used. (See page 13).

Two points call for attention :—

- (a) Parties must work quietly.
- (b) Every effort must be made to deceive the enemy as to the exact direction of advance. Throwers and carriers (Nos. 3 and 4) may, if the darkness is sufficiently complete, emerge from the trench and crawl along on one or other flank of the advance. They must, however, keep in close touch with the Bayonet men, and their throwing must be perfect.

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